

NUMBER IX.

AGAINST A DRAW - BRIDGE AT COUNCIL BLUFFS.

PREAMBLE AND JOINT RESOLUTION Relative to the Construction of a Draw - bridge across the Missouri River at Council Bluffs.

WHEREAS, The Missouri river is the western boundary of the State of Iowa for a distance of over two hundred miles, and is navigable for steamboats, carrying from 300 to 500 tons, for a distance of over one thousand five hundred miles north and west from the point where it ceases to be the western boundary of this State, and is navigated by steamboats and other water craft during the season of navigation, affording means of transportation for the surplus products of western Iowa, not only to the markets of the South, but to the mining districts of Montana and other territories north and west of this State; and,

WHEREAS, It is understood that application will be made to the Congress of the United States, now in session, for a permit to construct a bridge across the Missouri river at Council Bluffs, with a draw to permit the passage of steamboats and other water craft through said bridge; and,

WHEREAS, It is well known by all acquainted with said river that the channel thereof is constantly changing, so much so that it cannot be relied upon to remain in the same place for a single week, and which renders it utterly impossible to confine it to a draw so as to insure the passage of steamboats for more than a single trip, and that the current of said river is so rapid, that, should the channel be confined to the draw, that it would be almost impossible to confine steamboats to the space provided for their passage through the bridge; and,

WHEREAS, It has been shown by competent engineers that the Missouri river can be bridged in several places at or near Council Bluffs, and at other points, with a high bridge which will not obstruct navigation, at a less cost than the proposed low draw-bridge can be built; and

WHEREAS, The construction of a low draw - bridge across the Missouri river would be greatly detrimental to the navigation of said river, and damaging to and destructive of the interests of the citizens of western Iowa, who depend upon the unobstructed navigation of said river for the transportation of their produce to both northern and southern markets: therefore,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That our Senators be instructed, and our Representatives in Congress be requested, in the name of the people of the State of Iowa, to protest against the construction of said low draw - bridge, and that they use their influence to prevent a permit, grant, or license being given for the construction of a bridge across the Missouri

river at Council Bluffs, within this State, which will prevent steamboats from passing under it at any stage of water without resorting to a draw.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be instructed to send a copy of this preamble and joint resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved March 26, 1868.

NUMBER X.

FOR CONNECTING THE MISSISSIPPI WITH LAKE MICHIGAN, THROUGH FOX AND WISCONSIN RIVERS.

A MEMORIAL to Congress in Relation to the Project of Connecting by Navigable Channels through the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, the Waters of the Mississippi River with the Waters of Lake Michigan.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled :

THE MEMORIAL OF THE LEGISLATURE OF IOWA RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :—That the project of connecting the Mississippi river and Lake Michigan, by navigable channels through the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, has heretofore received the attention of Congress. Its growing importance to the country, the North-West, and the State, becomes each year more apparent.

The subject of connecting the Mississippi and the Lakes, has been considered by the people, met in local, county, State and national conventions, by boards of trade, and by the legislatures and governors of States, and without exceptions, by resolution, memorial, and message, all have united in recognizing its importance, and in urging upon Congress attention and action in relation thereto. The character of the undertaking is alike apparent to Congress, the legislatures, and the people. It is rendered necessary as a military measure, to protect, against inroad and attack, a frontier extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific; as a commercial measure, to enlarge the already inadequate outlets for an increasing commerce, thereby lifting from freights, and ultimately from the people, extortionate tariffs; and, as a measure otherwise national, to establish, out of avenues of intercourse and trade, bonds of national unity.

Whatever can be said of the national importance of connecting these waters by any channel, is equally true in reference to this channel. Nature unaided has, by way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, almost effected the desired connection. Aided by a few